

Record

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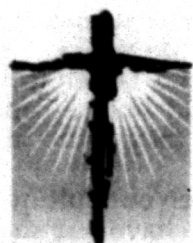
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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

SURVEYING DAMAGE — Union University President David S. Dockery addresses a news conference during the visit by Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, and other officials to the tornado-ravaged campus. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Baptist college takes direct tornado hit

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen toured the tornado-ravaged Union University campus Feb. 7, as the long process of cleaning up debris and rebuilding the campus begins.

"We're going to be here," Chertoff said, "to stand shoulder to shoulder with the governor and help you get cleaned up and get back to school... We're really glad you're alive and we're looking forward to coming back to the campus when it is spic and span and rebuilt."

As of Feb. 6, Union staff had recorded 86 storm-related injuries, 51 hospitalizations, and seven people admitted to intensive care at a local hospital, said Greg Thornbury, dean of Union's School of Christian Studies. By day's end, three remained in the hospital.

Union University, located in Jackson, is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and is a sister institution to Mississippi Baptists' three institutions of higher learning: Mississippi College in Clinton, Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, and William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

Chertoff took note of the university's preparedness plans, stating, "It's impressive the fact that the administration of this school and the students were able to get prepared. They really saved a lot of lives." Buildings, he said, can be replaced; "we can't replace lost lives."

Tennessee National Guard troops patrolled the Jackson campus the night of Feb. 6 to secure student residences and aca-



TORN BY TORNADO — An aerial photograph of Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tenn., reveals the devastation caused by a Feb. 5 tornado that struck the school. While no fatalities were recorded, the university's student housing in foreground was almost totally destroyed. (BP photo)

ademic buildings. When the sun came up Thursday morning, they turned their attention to helping students recover their belongings from housing units that weren't totally destroyed.

"Tennessee Guard members will be working with Union security to retrieve undamaged personal goods from various residence life rooms," said Union President David Dockery. "Our efforts also will focus on helping students remove their vehicles from the campus."

The cleanup operation will begin in earnest on Friday, Dockery said.

Bredesen and Chertoff visited the campus as part of a swing through the region to assess damage caused by dozens of tornadoes that raked Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama Feb. 5, killing at least 54 people and injuring hundreds.

U.S. President George Bush also visited the area on Feb. 8.

Although the Union University campus suffered millions of dollars in damage, rebuilding its facilities is not the top priority, Dockery said.

"We are concerned at the large level with what appears to be untold millions of dollars of damage. We have to try to restore and rebuild on this campus," Dockery said, "but students need to know that is not our primary concern."

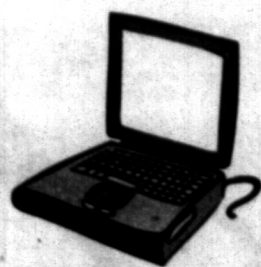
"We are concerned about them, their well-being, getting them back into the saddle, getting them back into trying to finish this spring semester," he said. "It's so important, especially for our seniors who are trying to graduate school next fall. We have got to finish this semester, and we're going to do everything we can to ensure that happens."

Dockery said he holds great hope for the future. "I've gone through several emotions, from the first moment I saw the devastation, to hearing the cries from the students under the rubble, to seeing how in the world we are going to be able to coordinate these efforts Tuesday night — which were just a jumble [of things]. Now, nearly 40 hours later, I'm in a state of great hopefulness."

Dockery said a five-phase plan has been implemented to move the university forward in a positive direction: campus assessment, students' return to homes, damage cleanup, resumption of classes, and rebuilding the campus.

Initial estimates place the damage to the university at \$40 million or more.





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The face of the enemy

The Iraq War has dragged on now for over six years, and the Afghanistan War even longer. There has been ebb and flow, and well-meaning people on both sides of the wars debate expound their firmly-held positions. Should we stay, or should we come home? That pivotal question will likely be answered with the election of a new U.S. President in the fall of this year.

There is at least one certain, verifiable fact, however, that transcends the arguments of both sides of the war debate: we face an intractable enemy that will stop at nothing to destroy us, our way of life, and our faith.

They have proven they will blow up innocent women and children in a public square. That's bad enough, but now they are resorting to strapping bomb belts on mentally-disabled people and detonating them by remote control as they wander through marketplaces.

Last week in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, Islamic terrorists fitted two Down Syndrome women with enough explosives to kill dozens of people in a crowded pet market. True to form, the terrorists set off the bombs from a hidden location a safe distance away.

It wasn't the first time. In January 2005, Al Qaeda terrorists used a child with Down Syndrome to bomb a polling place and kill more than 40 people. In November 2005, Al Qaeda used another mentally-disabled young woman to blow up another marketplace, killing six adults and a young child.

In March 2005, U.S. soldiers allowed a car with two babies in the back seat to pass through a checkpoint. Shortly thereafter, the two adults jumped from the car just before it exploded with the babies still in

the back seat. The children had been used as cover to get the car, heavily-laden with high explosives, through the checkpoint.

Videotapes recently captured at an Al Qaeda hideout in Iraq show young Muslim boys ages six to 14 being trained for kidnapping and other terrorist atrocities.

"Al Qaeda in Iraq not only targets women and children, but as we are witnessing in recent months, they also prey on their innocence and have used them as suicide bombers," said U.S. Army Major General Kevin Bergner.

The use of the innocent and the vulnerable as expendable bomb delivery vehicles "has uncovered the lowly ethics of these criminal gangs and their deceit and animosity toward humanity," said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

A diary and other documents seized during U.S. raids in Iraq last November may help explain why these atrocities with children and mentally-disabled adults are taking place. Al Qaeda in Iraq is apparently running short of able-bodied, male, true believers who are willing to be blown up for the cause.

Of course, women and children (especially women and female children) are seen as property by Islamist extremists, who feel no more remorse for blowing them up than they do a car or a building. When there aren't enough brave Islamic warriors willing to strap on the bomb belts, women and children will do better.

"NOW — IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET SOMEONE I'VE BEEN PRAYING AT — UH, I MEAN, FOR!"



Women and children would probably resist dying in a suicide attack, wouldn't they? Probably, so who better to turn to than those who would not be capable of understanding what they were about to do?

The contrast between our cultures could not be more stark. We have our shortcomings, but we do not place explosives on innocent people so many more innocent people can be killed, all in the name of our religion.

War may come and war may go, but these people must be stopped, because they have proven they will stop at nothing. That is the true face of the enemy.

GUEST OPINION:



Remember when?

By Phil Boatwright
Kansas City, Kansas

are either going to be simpatico with the surrounding culture, or stick out like, well, those "peculiar" people of 1 Peter 2:9.

Now, I'm not suggesting that you not go to anything other than G-rated films. I'm just asking that you read Philippians 4:8 and let that verse be your litmus test. The old story goes that if you place a frog in boiling water he'll jump out, but if you place him in room-temperature liquid and slowly raise the heat level, he'll remain until he (excuse the expression) croaks.

Over the past several decades, the media have simmered society in a stew of moral ambiguity, excusing their offenses by saying, "It's only a movie." Like that poor frog, we Christians have adjusted ourselves to the same numbing con-

tent as everyone else. This hurts us spiritually, and it hurts our witness to others. Today, content (the reason for the film's rating) has become as much a defining factor in moviemaking as the technical and artistic merits. Frustratingly, negative content often overrides positive themes in today's film releases.

Mind you, it's not the rating as much as the filmmaker's objective that should cause concern. I believe that certain R-rated films such as *The Passion of The Christ* and *Schindler's List* serve to teach, edify, and unite as well as entertain — but remember the poor frog. Cut to the chase: What makes you different from any other filmgoer? By refusing to attend films that negate your witness, you're making a statement to God, to

others, and to yourself. Some might object, saying, "How can I know what offenses are in a film until I see it?" That's easy. There are a couple dozen Christian reviewers out there that provide a critique of movies through a biblical lens while also highlighting the objectionable content of movies. (previewOnline.org is the one for which I write.)

There's even a secular website (screenit.com) that serves a similar purpose, and the Movie Mom reviews are printed in many newspapers. No excuses, folks. We may not change Hollywood, but we can witness our faith to the world by studying the Bible and putting its directives into practice.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things (Philippians 4:8).

Boatwright is a movie critic who writes for previewonline.org, where he suggests DVD alternatives along with his reviews. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Jordan stepping up Christian expulsions

ISTANBUL (BP) — Jordan has increased pressure on foreign Christians living in the kingdom, expelling many long-time residents over the past 13 months in what local churches see as an attack on their legitimacy. Authorities deported or refused residence permits to at least 27 expatriate Christian families and individuals in 2007, a number of them working with local churches or studying at a Christian seminary, Compass Direct News has confirmed.

In all but one case, officials refused to provide written explanations for the decisions, but many of those expelled told Compass that they had been questioned by intelligence officers regarding evangelism of Muslims.

"They said that I am a threat to Jordanian security and I am making the society unstable," said Hannu Lahtinen, a Finnish pastor deported in December. "They have a thousand ways to say you are preaching the Gospel."

"We are a legal entity, and many of these foreigners have been granted visas as clergy working in legal Jordanian churches," Nazarene pastor Afeef Halasa said. "Suddenly kicking them out without giving a reason communicates that our churches are not legitimate."

Though not illegal, Christian "public proselytism" of Muslims is against government policy, according to the U.S. State Department's annual report on religious freedom in Jordan — but a Jordanian spokesperson told Compass that the government only deported foreigners who had broken the law or had been dishonest in their application for residency.

"There have been incidents where individuals have violated the legal terms of their residence in the country or have deeply offended religious and public sensibilities, or both," said the official, who requested his name be withheld.

According to pastors from Jordan's five official evangelical churches, recognized by the government as "societies," authorities have long provided a wide degree of freedom for religious minorities.

Uncertainty about the future of evangelical Christians in Jordan caused almost all local and foreign pastors who spoke with Compass to request anonymity. Several foreign Christians, now outside the kingdom, agreed to be interviewed solely based

on the hope that publicity might help halt the crackdown.

Christians, including Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox, make up 3 percent of Jordan's population but hold almost 10 percent of the seats in parliament. Catholic and Orthodox churches have their own family court system.

Evangelicals, who number approximately 5,000, have fewer rights than the historical churches but are tax-exempt and can sponsor residence permits for foreign clergy.

In July 2006, Jordan published the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in its official Gazette, giving the covenant, which protects freedom of religion, force of law.

Christians from the United States, Europe, South Korea, Egypt, Sudan, and Iraq were among those deported or refused visas in 2007. Intelligence officers handcuffed and blindfolded Finnish pastor Lahtinen after detaining him at an Amman gas station in early December. Police held the clergyman for two days and then deported him without an official explanation. Lahtinen's wife and two young sons returned to Finland the following week.

One month later, upon official inquiry from the Finnish Foreign Ministry, Jordanian authorities provided a written explanation of the pastor's deportation.

Lahtinen was accused of being a threat to the country's social stability and illegally residing in the kingdom, and he was in personal danger, according to a letter from Jordan's Foreign Ministry to the Finnish embassy, Finland's Ambassador Pertti Harvola confirmed. A Jordanian government spokesperson told Compass that officials had repeatedly warned Lahtinen about his "activity."



EXPELLING CHRISTIANS — In Amman, Jordan, two spires rising from the King Hussein Mosque, built in 1924 on the site of a seventh century mosque, mark the site of just one of at least a half dozen mosques visible from this point. The Jordanian government has recently been targeting Christians for expulsion of the Muslim-dominated country. (BP photo by Joni B. Hannigan)

Lahtinen, who said police had interrogated him before his deportation about whether he was holding religious meetings for Muslims in his home.

Ambassador Harvola confirmed Lahtinen's claims that he been legally working as a pastor at the time of his deportation. Lahtinen's year-long residence permit to work as a clergyman for the Assemblies of God church had been renewed in September 2007.

A U.S. citizen handcuffed and kept in police custody for two days before being deported in August said that he had been forced to sign papers without being allowed to read them. He said that only when he grabbed one paper from an officer's hands and pulled it through the bars of his cell door did he have a few moments to read that he was considered a "threat to national security."

The Christian requested that his name and further details of his deportation be withheld for security reasons.

At least 10 of those deported in August and September 2007 were non-Jordanian Arab students at the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary (JETS). In addition, Jordan rejected the visa applications of all foreign JETS students requesting residency for the 2007-08 academic year.

In October, a human rights fact-finding team organized by Christian Solidarity International and the Religious Freedom Coalition brought up the issue of JETS deportations with Jordan's interior minister.

Pastor murdered

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A masked gunman murdered a pastor Jan. 17 in Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's North West Frontier province. Sajid William, age 29, worked as an office manager for Shelter Now, a Christian relief and development agency. He reportedly was accosted on the street while on his way home, according to the human rights organization International Christian Concern (ICC). The pastor was shot three times in the chest, and the gunman then used William's cell phone to call the victim's family and tell them he had murdered him. "We believe William was murdered for his faith," another pastor told ICC. Police authorities opened an investigation into the murder only after William's family registered a complaint. Officers took possession of the cell phone and William's laptop as evidence. During 2007, Christians in several parts of the province received threats to "embrace Islam or die," according to ICC. In Pakistan, Shelter Now operates a fish farm and is working to rebuild 105 schools ruined during a 2005 earthquake. The agency also provides clothes, shelter and food for refugees. Meanwhile, a Christian bookstore owner jailed in Beijing Nov. 28 and held initially without charges has been released on bail, according to the China Aid Association, a Texas-based organization that focuses on religious freedom issues in China. Authorities say criminal charges against Shi Weihai and two dozen others associated with his case have been dismissed.

"It was found that he had been residing here illegally, with no work nor residence permit," the official said.

"They have never warned me," said

Looking back

10 years ago

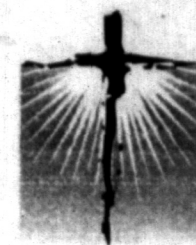
Chrissy Fortenberry, Brandon, and Whitney Joy Richardson, Vicksburg, are two Mississippi Acteens tapped to serve on the 1998 National Acteens Panel and as 1998 Top Teens.

20 years ago

Samford University announces it will open the Southern Baptist Convention's first university-based divinity school. The new school, which will offer the Master of Divinity Degree, has been endowed by an anonymous donor, according to Samford President Thomas E. Corts.

30 years ago

Nearly 13 million pounds of church literature were mailed last year by the Baptist Sunday School Board to churches in all 48 states and 65 foreign countries.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

BEAR ALERT!

I was attending a confer-
ence at Ridgecrest Baptist
Conference Center nestled
away up in the Blue Ridge
Mountains of North Carolina.
When I was checking in at the
registration desk, I was hand-
ed a bright yellow sheet of
paper that had big bold letters
at the top that said, "BEAR
ALERT!" It got my attention
and I stood there and read
information that explained
that bears had been spotted in
the area and that you needed
to be extremely careful. The
information sheet telling
about the bear sightings went
on to explain what you need-
ed to do in case you encoun-
tered a bear. Here I was at one
of the spiritual retreat centers
of Southern Baptists sur-
rounded by gorgeous moun-
tain peaks looking forward to
having great experiences in
the Lord, and I am confronted
with a "BEAR ALERT!" The
flyer was intended to have
shock value and it worked for
I was brought to the realiza-
tion that in the best of situa-
tions and in the most beautiful
environments that danger
lurks not far away.

I thought how the Apostle
Peter in writing his little epis-
tle pointed to the same alarm-
ing truth as he said, "Be sober,
be vigilant for your adversary
the devil goes about as a roar-
ing lion seeking whom he may
devour" (I Pet. 5:8). All of us
should listen and heed his
warning regardless of whether
we are parents, pastors, praise
leaders, or pew fillers. We each
can be very near the attacks
and destructiveness that Satan
would want to bring upon us.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

In the few days I was there
at the conference center I took
the warning seriously, kept
my eyes open, and repeatedly
thought about the alert.
Fortunately, I never had a bear
encounter, but during the
days that I was there at the
conference center not far
away from where we were, a
family on vacation was camp-
ing in the mountains. During
the night, a bear tore into their
tent and a precious child was
killed. My heart broke for the
family as I heard about the
tragedy. Later, when I read of
the death and then heard a
bear expert describing what
had probably taken place, I
continued to grieve for the
people who had lost so much.

As I reflected on the inci-
dent, I thought about the dan-
gers that lurk all around us all
of the time. I thought of all of
the ways that Satan inflicts
pain and destruction as he
finds one precious life after
another to attack, rip apart,
and leave in disarray and
hurt. The information sheet
had a list of things to keep in
mind if you encounter a bear.
I confess that as I read some of
the things I wondered if I
could implement any of them
if I ran into a bear.

The first thing on the list
was "DON'T RUN!" I imme-

diately thought that I do not
believe that I could accom-
plish that. In fact, my brain
had a quick conversation with
my feet and to be honest at
first the feet chuckled and
then responded by saying, "I
am not sure if I can obey that
rule." I remembered the old
story of the two guys who ran
into a bear and one of them
started to run and his friend
said, "You do not need to run
because you cannot outrun a
bear." The man replied, "I
don't have to outrun the bear.
All I have to do is outrun
you!" The reason that you are
not suppose to run when you
see a bear is because when
you turn away from him he
can take you down easily. The
glorious thing about our
encounters with Satan is that
we do not need to try to out-
run him so much as we need
to turn to the help that is so
nearby in our Lord Jesus.
Satan may be strong but he is
no match for the powerful,
ever present Jesus.

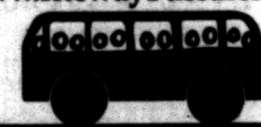
Another thing that was on
the "what to do list" was
"SPREAD YOUR ARMS,
WAVE A COAT OR PIECE OF
CLOTHING, OR PICK UP A
LARGE STICK AND WAVE IT
AROUND." All of these will
help convey to the bear that
you are a lot stronger and

larger than you appear to be.
The believer must always
remember that, "Greater is he
that is in you than he that is in
the world" (I John 4:4b).
Child of God, mark it down
that you are bigger and
stronger than you may appear
for residing within you is the
enormous power of our great
God. God has provided for us
a great reservoir of help,
hope, and confidence.

One other fact that was on
the information sheet was
"DO NOT FEED THE
BEARS!" You and I can gain
great insight by listening to
these instructions because
more often than not we find
ourselves cornered, trapped,
and maybe enslaved because
we begin to play around with
the dangers of sin. It is
absolutely amazing how mes-
merizing sin is and how con-
sistently people are convinced
that they can handle it. Sin
will not get the upper hand of
them. They are smarter, crafti-
er, stronger, and can handle
sin's poison. Then they dis-
cover too late that sin always
destroys. I propose that the
bear alert for the people of
God be to declare to this needy
world that Jesus came, lived,
and died on the cross to bear
our sins and set us free.

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Gaza area dangerous for Christian believers

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (BP) -- Hundreds of people crowded around a small stage on the sidewalk in Bethlehem. Traffic slowed not only to dodge those dancing in the street but so passengers could listen to the musicians publicly proclaiming God's love for the nations.

A visiting Gaza woman nervously looked around, checking the crowd for troublemakers at the outdoor praise and worship concert by Bethlehem Bible College students.

"We couldn't do something like this in Gaza. People are always watching," she whispered, afraid someone might hear. "Ever since our dear brother was killed for his faith, Gaza Christians live in fear."

Rami Ayyad, a prominent Baptist, was kidnapped and found dead less than a mile from a Christian bookstore he managed for the Palestinian Bible Society. Officials say there has been no progress in the investigation of the October incident. The bookstore was bombed last April but no one was injured.

Life has been increasingly difficult for Christians in Gaza since Hamas seized control of the coastal strip last June. Attacks against Christians have been rare; however, the Baptist community has been a target for extremists because of its evangelical work.

Many Baptist leaders have fled Gaza Strip, taking refuge in the West Bank. Pastor Hanna Massad and his family are among eight families who relocated because they felt it was too dangerous to remain in their homeland.

"The Lord is teaching us many things during this time. To follow Christ is very

real to us now," Massad said. "There's a price to pay to follow our Lord. We see people willing to give their life for Christ. Every day, Gaza Christians are confronted with the question, 'Are you willing to follow?'"

These refugees spend much time worrying about their Baptist family back home and praying for their safety. Christians living in the Gaza Strip number around 3,000. Most are Greek Orthodox, but there are a few hundred Catholics and a small community of Baptists living in this 140-square-mile territory where more than 1.5 million Muslims live.

Massad said believers in Gaza have been robbed or threatened in recent months. When a six-year-old girl answered the intercom system at her house recently, a voice told her he plans to kill her father.

"The man threatened isn't a leader in the Baptist church, but he is a very committed Christian," a Baptist worker said. "Most of those left in Gaza are not high-profile Baptist leaders, but they are still identified as part of the Baptist church. The threat to them is still very high and very real."

Life in the Gaza Strip is marked by hardship and isolation, as the average Palestinian just tries to survive from one



IN CHARGE -- Hamas militants at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip celebrate their movement's takeover in Palestinian parliamentary elections. (BP photo courtesy of Ismael Mohamad/UPI)

day to the next. There's often no electricity. This means very little water because water pumps are electric. Store shelves are depleted. Food prices have escalated dramatically, making even basic necessities too expensive for many. Luxury items, such as chocolate and Coca-Cola, are nonexistent.

Violence or the threat of violence is just a part of everyday life, as seen recently with rocket launchings by the Palestinians and reciprocal shootings by the Israeli army, just days after President George W. Bush visited the region.

Also taking an emotional toll: the impenetrable security fence circling the Gaza Strip, separating them from the outside world. Many say this is their own "little prison."

Most Baptists live in one section of town, in further isolation. The Baptist church that had more than 100 members six months ago might have only 10 attend Sunday services now.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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HIE YB LYHL ZBIL XB DZ
RDLY XB: LYB MHLYBN
YHLY IGL ABML XB
HAGIB; MGN D EG
HARHTZ LYGZB LYDISZ
LYHL FABHZZ YDX.

VGVI BDSYL: LRBILT-IDIB

Clue: H = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Four: Six.

Tribal violence tearing apart Kenyan society, ministries

KENYA (BP) -- No part of Kenya has been spared from the violence afflicting the country, not even slums where people have lived peacefully for years. One recent afternoon, a slum resident named Martha was visiting a sick friend. As she headed home, a group of young men attacked and killed her. Their reason: she was Kikuyu.

The heartbreak doesn't stop with Martha's death. Her pastor, Richard, is not being allowed to perform her funeral. In fact, because he and his family are Luo, they are not even permitted to attend the service.

"Tribalism has become a cancer in our country," Pastor Richard says. "And Satan is continuing to use it to destroy the people of Kenya. We must find a way to show people that in God's eyes we are all the same."

"Our family and I are brokenhearted," he says. For more than 10 years, his family and Martha's family "worshipped together, grieved together, praised God together, celebrated life together -- but now my family and I are outcasts because my father was of a different tribe than Martha's."

Martha and her family were among the first to join Pastor Richard's congregation. Over the years, the two families became so close they considered

themselves as one. They even moved next door to each other.

For Martha, her pastor says, the only thing more wonderful than attending church was the opportunity to go into the community and tell people about Jesus.

"Martha was always seeking ways that she could serve the people of the slums," her pastor says. "She knew the needs of the people here; she lived here and struggled here just like the rest of us. And she loved the Lord and wanted to share her faith with anyone that would listen."

"She was the person I could always depend on in our church," Pastor Richard says. "She was the first to volunteer, no matter what the task. She had a true servant's heart."

"Tribalism is a complicated issue, but it must be addressed by the church and by those brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Kenya that want to see this hatred ended. We must pray that this country will turn back to God or we will all perish together."

Pastor Richard is trying to locate a Kikuyu pastor who will perform Martha's funeral. His prayer is that the Lord will convict everyone who loved Martha, regardless of their tribe, to come together to celebrate her life.

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AWARDS COMPETITION

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN: May 2-3, 2008 -- Awards Banquet on Friday, May 2, 7-9 p.m.
Workshops on Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m. (Watch our Web site for more information on the workshops -- www.mbc.org)

WHERE: Park Place Baptist Church, 5701 Hwy. 80 East, Pearl, MS 39208

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 7, 2008, 4:45 p.m.

Enter your video, audio, and website projects.
Download an entry form online at www.mbc.org.
Contact Ian Richardson, director of Communications, MBCB,
at (601) 292-3378 for more details.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



1. Children present The Christmas Story, Central Church, McNeill



2. 100th Anniversary, Conway Centerhill Church, Leake Assoc.



3. Christmas program, Shaw Church, Shaw



4. Children in Action, Pleasant Home Church, Laurel

1. The children of Central Church, McNeill, presented The Christmas Story: Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts Dec. 16. Shown are the participants.

2. Conway Centerhill Church, Leake Association, recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. Lois Biggart, the oldest church member, accepted the 150 year plaque, and Elizabeth Evans received a plaque for 40 years of service as pianist. William Kitchings, pastor.

3. The children of Shaw Church, Shaw, presented their Christmas program Dec. 23. Shown are the participants.

4. The Children in Action of Pleasant Home Church, Laurel, participated in Christmas in August. Shown are the children.

5. Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County, placed 50 white crosses in front of the church in observance of the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

6. Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County, recognized their deacons for service. Shown are pastor Lyndle Davis, J.W. Kellum, Larry Wilbanks, and Ray Owen.

7. Meadowview Church, Starkville, recently ordained two new deacons. Shown are minister to students Jason Green, Jake Spencer, Elizabeth Spencer, Melanie Chessier, Daniel Chessier, and pastor Jason Middleton.

8. Skene Church, Skene, collected 93 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Shown are children and youth with minister of music Duke Barnes and pastor Wayne Sistrunk.

9. New Hope Church, Foxworth, exceeded their \$4500 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal by collecting \$5,497.68.



5. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, Bellevue Church, Pontotoc



6. Deacons recognized, Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County



7. Deacon ordinations, Meadowview Church, Starkville



8. Samaritan's Purse shoebox collection, Skene Church, Skene

JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. Revonations completed, Hillsboro Church, Forest



12. Parker recognized for service, First Church, Water Valley



13. Baby Dedication, First Church, Rose Hill

11. Hillsboro Church, Forest, dedicated their new classrooms, recreation room, and renovated kitchen and fellowship hall Oct. 28, 2007. Shown are Joe Brown, Larry Duncan, Quinton Mills, Victor Harrell, pastor Ted Hawkins, Rodney Russell, Brian Mitchell, Ferrell Williamson, and Bobby Kirby.

12. First Church, Water Valley, honored Paul L. Parker Feb. 3 for serving 72 years as chairman of ushers. Shown are pastor Randy Bain, Parker, Charlotte Parker, and Keith Stevens. (CUT-LINE: Parker recognition, First, Water Valley)

13. Rose Hill First Church, Rose Hill, held a baby dedication day Jan. 20. Shown are the couples and their children.

14. Bucatunna Church, Meridian, exceeded their \$2000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal by collecting \$2080. Shown are missions director Ann Mercer and pastor Derrick Simmons.

15. Slayden Church, Slayden, ordained Casey Russell to the gospel ministry Jan. 20. He is serving as youth pastor at Liberty Church, Glen. Shown are pastor David Bishop and Russell.

16. Harmony Church, Louisville, recognized Jerry Lundy for 20 years as pastor. Lundy is shown receiving a plaque from chairman of deacons Bill Rogers.



14. Lottie Moon goal exceeded, Bucatunna Church, Meridian



15. Russell ordained to ministry, Slayden Church, Slayden



16. Lundy recognized, Harmony Church, Louisville

TV indecency bill stalled

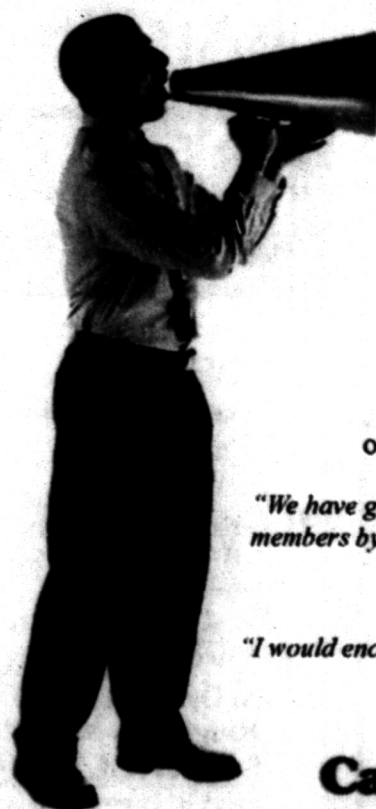
WASHINGTON (BP) — A bill seeking to strengthen restrictions on television indecency finally passed a Senate committee in December but now sits idly on the Senate legislative calendar with no signs of moving anytime soon.

The Protecting Children From Indecent Programming Act, S. 1780, attempts to remedy the Second Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in June that the Federal Communications Commission could not prohibit television networks from airing fleeting expletives.

The appeals court's opinion ruling was issued after the live Fox Channel 2002 and 2003 Billboard Music Awards programs made use of the F-word and/or S-word while on air. The FCC ruled in those incidents a single use of the F-word would be considered indecent, but the New York-based court rejected the FCC's decisions.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, recently published an article on the ERLC's website urging those who helped push the bill past the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to return to their phones.

"The decision [by the circuit court] greatly curtails the FCC's authority to fully enforce a new law — passed with your help — to fine broadcasters up to \$325,000 per indecency violation," Land said. "And it opens the doors for networks to routinely air fleeting expletives between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children are likely to watch television."



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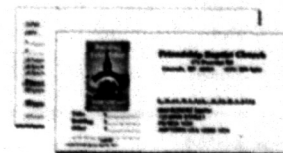
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Legislature News for 2008

By Jimmy Porter, executive director
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission

The political scene for 2008 is filled with a lot of questions and very few answers at the moment. Democrats and Republicans are polarized.

The landscape is different with several newly elected senators and representatives. It is very difficult to predict how they will vote. We have a new Lt. Gov. in Phil Bryant. He is not new to the process as he previously served in the House of Representative and as State Auditor. In the House there was a tremendous struggle for Speaker of the House between Billy McCoy and Jeff Smith. Mr. McCoy was reelected Speaker by two votes.

I am going to list a few bills that we are monitoring in which we have an interest. First, you need to know that most of these bills have twins. This means if one is listed as a Senate Bill (SB) there is usually one very similar in the House (HB). Often a bill will have several cousins or bills that basically say the same thing just by a different author. Usually they are all sent to a committee and incorporated into one

bill. Secondly, many of these bills will never get out of committee. Some we will be watching do not need to get out of committee such as SB 2029 which would authorize a statewide lottery.

The best bit of information from this article is this web site <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>. There you can find all the information you need about your elected officials, bills that are enrolled, and also the action on those bills.

PRO LIFE LEGISLATION: Several bills have been filed this year and hopefully some of them will make it to the Governor's desk. SB 2541 prohibits the unlawful distribution of the abortion-inducing drug RU 486. SB 2201 forces a physician who performs or induces an abortion to have staff privileges at a licensed hospital in Mississippi. SB 2200 prohibits abortions in the state of Mississippi. SB 2763 would authorize the teaching of fetal awareness and abstinence education in the public classrooms across our state.

Also SB 2074 dictates that a physician performing an abortion in clinics

must be a board certified OB/GYN. These and other bills are designed to protect the unborn.

TOBACCO: Many cities have restricted smoking in public places and now there is a bill that would make this statewide - 2052 which prohibits smoking in all public places. Also, HB283 would enact a non-smoker protection act. I am not going list the bill numbers, but there are a half dozen or more that raise the tax on cigarettes. The governor has formed a tax commission to study our tax structure, and probably nothing that relates to taxes will be done until that study is completed.

GAMBLING: SB 2199 limits legalized gambling to the counties in which it is already conducted. This bill presented by Senator Yancey has passed the Senate and is now in the House. There are other bills that tweak statutes that have already been enacted. These must be closely scrutinized because changing a word or two can alter an existing bill and open more windows for gambling.

ALCOHOL: Every year bills are submitted to place stricter regulations on this industry but most die in committee. I applaud those who keep trying to do something about drunk drivers and other substance abuse users. HB 109 revises the minimum penalty for death and maiming by one driving under the influence. SB 2070 requires a separate election to allow sale of alcoholic beverages and beer when a wet city annexes a portion of a dry county.

There are several bills this year that call for voter identification. Bills that require the mandatory reporting of sex crimes and the reporting of abortions on minors have been introduced. The list goes on and on as nearly 3,000 bills are filed each year.

Please remember that these men and women who are elected to these positions of leadership have families and businesses. Their outside duties and responsibilities do not stop while they are in session. Please pray for them.

Finally, if you need additional information call our office at (601) 292-3329 and Rita, Rob or I will assist you.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Messenger

Luke 10: 1-12, 16

By Andy Vaughn

Luke 9:57 (NASB) says, "And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, 'I will follow You wherever You go.'" Sounds like a positive declaration from someone willing to follow Christ wherever He leads, but it is important to look at the verses that follow. Verses 57-62 describe many people willing to follow Jesus at His leading, but their willingness was not put into action. The people described in these verses wanted to first take care of what seemed to be of greatest importance in their own life situation, then follow Him at their convenience.

Consider the question, "How many of us have promised Christ that we will follow Him wherever He leads; then find ourselves making an

excuse for why we can't follow Him this time, but maybe next?" Failure to follow through with commitment for the cause of the gospel is a major problem that plagues churches today. Some of the more common excuses include: "I don't know how to do that", "I don't have the time", "Our church does not have the money", and "I'm scared I will have to eat something I don't like". God's word challenges us to consider some of the excuses we have made that caused us not to follow Christ wherever He leads.

Not only does God's word challenge us think about the excuses we have made; His word encourages us to be a messenger that is willing to carry the gospel to the world as



Vaughn

His disciple. Consider the question, "Am I willing to be a messenger for the Gospel message to the world and what is required of me for this task?"

The first thing we must do to be a committed messenger for the Gospel is to see the need. Luke 10:2

(NASB) says, "And He was saying to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" The need is for committed Christians to step up and carry the gospel to the lost people in the world. Non-Christians need to hear the message of the gospel.

It is time for church people to get out of their seats after the Sunday morning worship service and go out into the world to find lost people! The time has come for church members to stop being church pew warmers and become laborers in God's field of harvest for lost souls. This is God's harvest

and HE wants HIS followers to ask HIM for opportunities to be sent out into the field. Today is the day for the harvest so that it will not be lost. Do you know that most who claim to be Christians never share their faith in Christ with a non-Christian? What are you going to do about that today?

As you see the need to join God in the harvest the next step is to become committed for the cause. Luke 10:3-4 (NASB) says, "Go your ways; behold I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way." God never promises His messengers that the way will be easy. Rely on Him for all provisions and don't waste time on the way to the fields of harvest. The time for harvest is today and God will take you there as long as you commit to the task of being His messenger!

Being committed to the task of carrying the Gospel to the world requires us to find others that will listen. Luke 10:6 says "And if a man of peace is there,

your peace will rest upon him; but if not, it will return to you." Christians are encouraged through Scripture to find people that will receive the message of Christ. A person of peace can be our best friend in spreading the Gospel of Christ to the world.

Verses 10-16 describe the situation where someone rejects the gospel message. The messenger must still stand firm in the message of Christ that he has faithfully carried to those that needed to hear. Those who reject will pay the penalty of God's judgment, but the messenger must move on and continue with the task that God has given him. The messenger must realize that he is carrying an urgent message of salvation to the world. Keep pressing forward with the gospel.

God's word encourages Christians today to step up to the task and carry the gospel to the world. Will you be His messenger?

Vaughn is pastor of First Church, Fulton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Do You Seek the Lord's Guidance?

Genesis 24: 34-48

By Melleen Moore

The "love story" of Isaac and Rebekah beautifully portray the seeking of God's guidance by a loving and faithful father. The truths learned are far more than love, romance and marriage. The Lord's guidance in the selection of Rebekah was the focus of the prayers of Abraham and his servant who was given the task of finding a suitable wife for Isaac.

Identify Your Tasks

Genesis 24: 34-41

Abraham at 140 years of age was focusing on the future for Isaac. From circumcision at eight days of age through years of growing into manhood, Isaac had been preparing to be a part of God's covenant with Abraham. Now Isaac is forty and Abraham is concerned

about a suitable wife for him. It was customary that the parents selected a wife for their son. A servant of Abraham's was charged with this specific task. As the "love story" unfolds Abraham's servant traveled to Abraham's home country. He knew the heart of Abraham was for Isaac to have a wife from his family, not a Canaanite wife and neither was Isaac to go to Abraham's homeland. Immediately the servant began his journey with ten camels and gifts for the prospective wife's family. As the servant stood at the well in Abraham's homeland, he prayed "O Lord God of my master, Abraham, please give me success this day and show kindness to my master, Abraham." (Genesis 24: 12 NKJV). Women came to the well twice a day for water for



Moore

the house and to water animals. The well was a gathering place for women just as the city gate was for men. The servant's prayer continued for a maiden to give him water and offer to water the camels. Rebekah, a granddaughter of Abraham's brother, Nabor, arrived at the well and fulfilled the expectations of the servant's prayer. Rebekah joyful told her family of the stranger which resulted in Laban, her brother inviting him to stay with the family saying they had space and food for him and the animals. The servant was so intent on his task that he refused food for himself until he had explained his mission. Announcing that "I am Abraham's servant" (Genesis 24:34 NKJV), he praised his master, told about his master's wealth, his master's only son born late in life and the oath taken by the servant to find a wife for his master's son, Isaac. An important part of the explanation was the strong Godly

faith of Abraham. Abraham was well respected among his family; they remembered his following God's leadership long ago when he left Ur of the Chaldeans.

Rely On and Praise the Lord

Genesis 24: 42-48

Abraham's servant was glad to tell Rebekah's family how the Lord had answered his prayer and prospered him. He arrived at the well at the evening watering time as the women came to draw water. The servant's thoughts quickly returned to his prayer for the Lord's guidance thinking "let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son" (Genesis 24: 44 NKJV). His reliance on God was answered before he finished thinking in his heart that this maiden could be the one. Little did Rebekah know that she was being considered to be asked to be a bride. Asking for a drink was not uncommon as strangers often stopped at the well. The clear sign to indicate the right woman had been selected was for her to give the servant a drink and offer to

water the camels. Ten camels drinking as much as ten gallons each is a lot a water to draw. The servant having accepted the faith of his master had relied on God for guidance in this task. He seemed to enjoy relating each detail of the well experience even to noting that Rebekah made haste as she went about the task of watering. Upon her identification of Nabor's family whom the servant recognized as Abraham's family, a nose ring and bracelets of gold were put on Rebekah. It was time for praise and thanksgiving. The servant bowed and worshipped the Lord with blessings for leading him "in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son" (Genesis 24: 48 NKJV). The "love story" continues as Rebekah returns to Canaan with the servant and becomes Isaac's wife. God's guidance is available to us for the asking in all of life's tasks.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record



HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received by The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of the designated cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

RANK	CHURCH NAME	CITY	2006 GIFTS
1	West Kemper Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$55,000.00
2	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	\$38,799.82
3	Immanuel Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$38,627.73
4	Bunker Hill Baptist Church	Columbia	\$26,176.18
5	First Baptist Church	Jackson	\$21,713.00
6	First Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$20,481.00
7	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$19,733.00
8	First Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$14,632.12
9	First Baptist Church	Richton	\$14,404.11
10	Brandon Baptist Church	Brandon	\$13,974.66
11	Perkinson Baptist Church	Perkinson	\$13,642.76
12	First Baptist Church	Corinth	\$13,627.07
13	First Baptist Church	Batesville	\$13,406.00
14	Murphy Creek Baptist Church	Louisville	\$12,935.97
15	Williamsville Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,518.93
16	Steep Hollow Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$11,988.81
17	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$11,261.12
18	Bellehaven Baptist Church	Ocean Springs	\$11,167.29
19	East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$11,063.37
20	Fredonia Baptist Church	New Albany	\$10,511.00
21	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$10,141.00
22	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$10,000.00
23	Eastwood Baptist Church	Monroeville	\$10,000.00
24	Pontotoc County Bapt Assoc	Pontotoc	\$10,000.00
25	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Carthage	\$9,999.37
26	Faith Baptist Church	Meridian	\$9,767.32
27	Brier Hill Baptist Church	Florence	\$9,567.65
28	Memorial Baptist Church	Richton	\$9,522.89
29	Seminary Baptist Church	Seminary	\$9,440.54
30	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$9,220.46
31	Trinity Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$9,103.58
32	First Baptist Church	Natchez	\$9,026.71
33	First Baptist Church	Madison	\$8,860.33
34	First Baptist Church	Laurel	\$8,755.00
35	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$8,542.00
36	Walthall Baptist Church	Walthall	\$8,419.00
37	Gaston Baptist Church	Booneville	\$8,359.71
38	Pine Forest Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$8,352.46
39	First Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$8,303.60
40	Fellowship Baptist Church	Meridian	\$8,254.17
41	Rolling Creek Baptist Church	Quitman	\$8,116.06
42	Rienzi Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$8,060.61
43	Trinity First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$7,934.82
44	Calvary Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,867.39
45	First Baptist Church	Clinton	\$7,831.70
46	Harmony Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$7,703.62
47	First Baptist Church	Sardis	\$7,693.54
48	First Baptist Church	Newton	\$7,663.83
49	First Baptist Church	Union	\$7,650.00
50	First Baptist Church	Canton	\$7,600.00
51	First Baptist Church	McComb	\$7,526.91
52	Topisaw Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,500.00
53	Prentiss Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$7,318.93
54	Sylverena Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$7,305.70
55	First Baptist Church	Abbeville	\$7,111.96
56	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Laurel	\$6,995.74
57	Parkway Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$6,924.38
58	First Baptist Church	Booneville	\$6,924.06
59	First Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$6,820.90
60	Shiloh Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$6,799.10
61	Liberty Baptist Church	Liberty	\$6,682.66
62	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	Sandy Hook	\$6,637.07
63	Bovina Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,612.00
64	First Baptist Church	Greenville	\$6,601.50
65	First Baptist Church	Picayune	\$6,600.25
66	Crossview Baptist Church	Brandon	\$6,393.00
67	Stanton Baptist Church	Natchez	\$6,359.65
68	Raymond Baptist Church	Raymond	\$6,325.00
69	Vaiden Baptist Church	Vaiden	\$6,318.19
70	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$6,261.23
71	Parkway Baptist Church	Clinton	\$6,260.00
72	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$6,240.20
73	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Richton	\$6,230.00
74	Bethany Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$6,215.00
75	Desoto Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	\$6,213.31
76	First Baptist Church	Louisville	\$6,147.26
77	Leaf River Baptist Church	Collins	\$6,077.00
78	First Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$6,069.76
79	X Tended Missions Network	Hernando	\$6,000.00
80	Branch Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,961.43
81	Hurley Baptist Church	Hurley	\$5,779.98
82	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$5,776.49
83	First Baptist Church	Starkville	\$5,683.84
84	First Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$5,577.50
85	Unity Baptist Church	Harrisville	\$5,510.73
86	Tylertown Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$5,472.09
87	Topeka Baptist Church	Jayess	\$5,441.39
88	First Baptist Church	Collins	\$5,380.76
89	Valley Park Baptist Church	Valley Park	\$5,343.88
90	Springfield Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,332.00
91	Tomnolen Baptist Church	Eupora	\$5,249.19
92	Forest Baptist Church	Forest	\$5,056.00
93	Concord Baptist Church	Macon	\$5,006.00
94	Highland Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$4,991.96
95	Mount Zion Baptist Church Tate	Independence	\$4,975.26
96	Broadmoor Baptist Church	Madison	\$4,954.67
97	Wildwood Baptist Church	Clinton	\$4,947.38
98	First Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$4,873.93
99	Clarke Venable Baptist Church	Decatur	\$4,803.96
100	Northminster Baptist Church	Jackson	\$4,800.00
101	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$4,800.00
102	First Baptist Church	Quitman	\$4,790.00
103	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$4,781.98
104	Union Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,762.73
105	Bucatanne Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,718.88
106	Dublin Baptist Church	Carson	\$4,704.37
107	Meadville Baptist Church	Meadville	\$4,695.00

108	First Baptist Church	\$4,667.74
109	First Baptist Church	\$4,628.56
110	Church Road Baptist Church	\$4,549.74
111	New Sight Baptist Church	\$4,546.72
112	Liberty Baptist Church	\$4,500.00
113	County Line Baptist Church	\$4,484.25
114	Dry Creek Baptist Church	\$4,484.25
115	Goodwater Baptist Church	\$4,450.00
116	Fairview Baptist Church	\$4,431.21
117	First Baptist Church	\$4,385.00
118	Silver Creek Baptist Church	\$4,375.10
119	Anchor Baptist Church	\$4,347.89
120	Liberty Baptist Church	\$4,342.00
121	First Baptist Church	\$4,311.77
122	First Baptist Church	\$4,288.00
123	First Baptist Church, Lyman	\$4,248.33
124	Grays Creek Baptist Church	\$4,222.49
125	Carrollton Baptist Church	\$4,180.61
126	Hillcrest Baptist Church	\$4,162.84
127	Central Baptist Church	\$4,146.00
128	North Winona Baptist Church	\$4,066.41
129	Ackerman Baptist Church	\$4,011.52
130	Neshoba Baptist Church	\$3,989.17
131	Phalti Baptist Church	\$3,956.79
132	Eastwood Baptist Church	\$3,944.10
133	High Hill Baptist Church	\$3,925.66
134	Trinity Baptist Church	\$3,910.69
135	New Hope Baptist Church	\$3,899.52
136	Harmony Baptist Church	\$3,889.52
137	Bay Springs Baptist Church	\$3,856.00
138	D'Lo Baptist Church	\$3,800.00
139	First Baptist Church	\$3,777.75
140	First Baptist Church	\$3,771.31
141	First Baptist Church	\$3,764.00
142	First Baptist Church	\$3,750.00
143	Woolmarket Baptist Church	\$3,721.05
144	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	\$3,709.67
145	Westwood Baptist Church	\$3,700.47
146	Crane Creek Baptist Church	\$3,687.00
147	Holcomb Baptist Church	\$3,665.95
148	First Baptist Church	\$3,642.91
149	First Baptist Church	\$3,626.63
150	Hollandale Baptist Church	\$3,625.35
151	First Baptist Church, Delisle	\$3,615.44
152	New County Line Church	\$3,600.00
153	Mount Zion Baptist Church	\$3,554.00
154	Thrasher Baptist Church	\$3,550.00
155	Improve Baptist Church	\$3,525.00
156	Beulah Baptist Church	\$3,502.80
157	DeSoto Baptist Church	\$3,500.00
158	Ephesus Baptist Church	\$3,485.91
159	Valley Grove Baptist Church	\$3,446.55
160	Oakvale Baptist Church	\$3,438.13
161	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	\$3,402.20
162	West Jackson Street Church	\$3,374.30
163	Oak Forest Baptist Church	\$3,357.08
164	New Hope Baptist Church	\$3,350.00
165	Central Baptist Church	\$3,309.47
166	First Baptist Church	\$3,250.71
167	First Baptist Church	\$3,240.51
168	Temple Baptist Church	\$3,230.00
169	Deer Creek Baptist Church	\$3,224.00
170	Shiloh Baptist Church	\$3,200.00
171	First Baptist Church	\$3,189.00
172	Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$3,185.54
173	First Baptist Church	\$3,145.38
174	Rocky Point Baptist Church	\$3,125.00
175	Calvary Baptist Church	\$3,101.48
176	Union Baptist Church	\$3,090.23
177	Calvary Baptist Church	\$3,083.37
178	Lexie Baptist Church	\$3,061.75
179	First Baptist Church	\$3,058.50
180	Arkabutla Baptist Church	\$3,057.26
181	Midway Baptist Church	\$3,034.02
182	First Baptist Church	\$3,029.63
183	Silver Springs Baptist Church	\$3,025.00
184	Braxton Baptist Church	\$3,015.04
185	West End Baptist Church	\$2,998.50
186	Harmony Baptist Church	\$2,996.00
187	First Baptist Church	\$2,984.26
188	Cairo Baptist Church	\$2,985.96
189	Arm Baptist Church	\$2,965.50
190	Rock Hill Baptist Church	\$2,931.46
191	New Harmony Baptist Church	\$2,920.54
192	First Baptist Church	\$2,911.10
193	Providence Baptist Church	\$2,892.39
194	Macedonia Baptist Church	\$2,885.96
195	Rome Baptist Church	\$2,880.65
196	Society Hill Baptist Church	\$2,875.00
197	Bayou View Baptist Church	\$2,850.00
198	Eden Baptist Church	\$2,835.30
199	Ingomar Baptist Church	\$2,817.50
200	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown	\$2,811.88
201	Parkway Baptist Church	\$2,788.00
202	Newhebron Baptist Church	\$2,776.25
203	Concord Baptist Church	\$2,774.49
204	Freedom Baptist Church	\$2,744.87
205	First Baptist Church	\$2,744.00
206	Chesterville Baptist Church	\$2,724.35
207	Ruleville Baptist Church	\$2,709.96
208	Pine Grove Baptist Church	\$2,707.43
209	Caney Baptist Church	\$2,697.00
210	Short Creek Baptist Church	\$2,615.00
211	Midway Baptist Church	\$2,608.30
212	Whitesand Baptist Church	\$2,600.00
213	Trinity Baptist Church	\$2,590.00
214	Tuscola Baptist Church	\$2,588.00
215	New Hope Baptist Church	\$2,587.84
216	Alta Woods Baptist Church	\$2,580.00
217	New Bethel Baptist Church	\$2,561.58
218	First Baptist Church	\$2,555.00
219	Calvary Baptist Church	\$2,552.93
220	Big Creek Baptist Church	\$2,546.46
221	Good Hope Baptist Church	\$2,532.74
222	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	\$2,532.18
223	Rocky Creek Baptist Church	\$2,519.00
224	Selah Baptist Church	\$2,515.00
225	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	\$2,510.50
226	Chunky Baptist Church	\$2,505.00
227	First Baptist Church	\$2,500.00
228	Evergreen Baptist Church	\$2,479.08
229	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	\$2,475.00
230	Friendship Baptist Church	\$2,468.31
231	Calvary Baptist Church	\$2,461.37
232	Gallman Baptist Church	\$2,437.50
233	Bethsaida Baptist Church	\$2,422.00
234	Oak Hill Baptist Church	\$2,400.00
235	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$2,394.01
236	First Baptist Church	\$2,388.00
237	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	\$2,388.00
238	Oakland Baptist Church	\$2,359.60
239	Beulah Baptist Church	\$2,349.61
240	First Baptist Church	\$2,338.02
241	First Baptist Church	\$2,320.96
242	Casey Creek Baptist Church	\$2,314.00
243	First Baptist Church	\$2,292.00
244	West Ripley Baptist Church	\$2,276.00
245	Wade Baptist Church	\$2,267.90
246	First Baptist Church	\$2,260.00
247	Bethsaida Baptist Church	\$2,249.67
248	Dixie Baptist Church	\$2,243.00
249	First Baptist Church	\$2,241.35
250	South Louisville Baptist Church	\$2,220.00
251	Liberty Baptist Church	\$2,217.05
252	Longview Heights Baptist Church	\$2,210.00
253	Singleton Baptist Church	\$2,207.85
	Brandon	\$2,200.00
	Columbia	\$2,200.00
	Horn Lake	\$2,200.00
	Brookhaven	\$2,200.00
	Waynesboro	\$2,200.00
	Union	\$2,200.00
	Mendenhall	\$2,200.00
	Magee	\$2,200.00
	Columbus	\$2,200.00
	Vicksburg	\$2,200.00
	McComb	\$2,200.00
	Water Valley	\$2,200.00
	New Albany	\$2,200.00
	Nettleton	\$2,200.00
	Olive Branch	\$2,200.00
	Gulfport	\$2,200.00
	Hernando	\$2,200.00
	Carrollton	\$2,200.00
	Jackson	\$2,200.00
	Brookhaven	\$2,200.00
	Winona	\$2,200.00
	Acjarman	\$2,200.00
	Union	\$2,200.00
	Prentiss	\$2,200.00
	Indianola	\$2,200.00
	Philadelphia	\$2,200.00
	Southaven	\$2,200.00
	Meridian	\$2,200.00
	Pontotoc	\$2,200.00
	Bay Springs	\$2,200.00
	D Lo	\$2,200.00
	Biloxi	\$2,200.00
	Kosciusko	\$2,200.00
	Belzoni	\$2,200.00
	Eupora	\$2,200.00
	Biloxi	\$2,200.00
	Bruce	\$2,200.00
	Meridian	\$2,200.00
	Perkinson	\$2,200.00
	Holcomb	\$2,200.00
	Foxworth	\$2,200.00
	Pascagoula	\$2,200.00
	Hollandale	\$2,200.00
	Pas Christian	\$2,200.00
	Philadelphia	\$2,200.00
	Columbus	\$2,200.00
	Booneville	\$2,200.00
	Columbia	\$2,200.00
	Inverness	\$2,200.00
	Shubuta	\$2,200.00
	Forest	\$2,200.00
	Tupelo	\$2,200.00
	Oak Vale	\$2,200.00
	Bogue Chitto	\$2,200.00
	Tupelo	\$2,200.00
	Jackson	\$2,200.00
	Gulfport	\$2,200.00
	Mc Neill	\$2,200.00
	Tupelo	\$2,200.00
	Calhoun City	\$2,200.00
	Hattiesburg	\$2,200.00
	Rolling Fork	\$2,200.00
	Louisville	\$2,200.00
	Pearl	\$2,200.00
	Grenada	\$2,200.00
	Hickory Flat	\$2,200.00
	Carthage	\$2,200.00
	Tupelo	\$2,200.00
	Bailey	\$2,200.00
	Greenwood	\$2,200.00
	Tylertown	\$2,200.00
	Terry	\$2,200.00
	Arkabutla	\$2,200.00
	Meridian	\$2,200.00
	Indianola	\$2,200.00
	Osyka	\$2,200.00
	Braxton	\$2,200.00
	West Point	\$2,200.00
	Wainut	\$2,200.00
	Columbus	\$2,200.00
	Ecu	\$2,200.00
	Silver Creek	\$2,200.00
	Brandon	\$2,200.00
	Blue Springs	\$2,200.00
	New Albany	\$2,200.00
	Hattiesburg	\$2,200.00
	Tupelo	\$2,200.00
	Rome	\$2,200.00
	Oak Vale	\$2,200.00
	Gulfport	\$2,200.00
	Yazoo City	\$2,200.00
	New Albany	\$2,200.00
	Petal	\$2,200.00
	Houston	\$2,200.00
	Newhebron	\$2,200.00
	McCall Creek	\$2,200.00
	Laurel	\$2,200.00
	Ripley	\$2,200.00

254	Pinckney Baptist Church	Union	\$2,199.00	400	First Baptist Church	Satartia	\$1,477.26
255	Remus Baptist Church	Carthage	\$2,198.39	401	Lakeland Baptist Church	Mantachie	\$1,476.00
256	Red Hill Baptist Church	Perkinson	\$2,194.00	402	Interstate Baptist Church	Shaw	\$1,476.34
257	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Petal	\$2,190.00	403	North Columbia Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,471.00
258	First Baptist Church	Bruce	\$2,180.00	404	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$1,465.00
259	First Baptist Church	Flora	\$2,179.33	405	Gum Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,448.64
260	Bethel Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$2,153.83	406	Skene Baptist Church	Skene	\$1,438.85
261	Sturgis Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$2,150.27	407	Northside Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,428.98
262	First Baptist Church	Buckatunna	\$2,150.00	408	Fellowship Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$1,427.46
263	First Baptist Church	Amory	\$2,140.00	409	First Baptist Church	Lambert	\$1,426.00
264	Magee's Creek Baptist Church	Jayess	\$2,139.22	410	Hinkle Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$1,426.00
265	Hathorn Baptist Church	Columbia	\$2,136.10	411	Macedonia Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$1,423.10
266	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Quitman	\$2,134.19	412	Buck Creek Baptist Church	Richton	\$1,422.02
267	Causesville Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,094.87	413	DeKalb Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,420.00
268	Leaf River Baptist Church	Forest	\$2,085.00	414	Mount Manna Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$1,419.00
269	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$2,080.00	415	Macedonia Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$1,404.50
270	First Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$2,075.00	416	Greenland Baptist Church	Union	\$1,400.00
271	Siloam Baptist Church	Magee	\$2,068.82	417	Leaf Baptist Church	McLain	\$1,400.00
272	Faith Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	\$2,067.01	418	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Eupora	\$1,400.00
273	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$2,060.00	419	Center Ridge Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,400.00
274	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	\$2,060.00	420	Union Ridge Baptist Church	Noxapater	\$1,400.00
275	Sebastopol Baptist Church	Sebastopol	\$2,060.00	421	Border Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$1,400.00
276	Christ Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,060.00	422	Brooksville Baptist Church	Brooksville	\$1,393.79
277	Eastside Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$2,032.22	423	Water Oak Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$1,386.54
278	Myrick Baptist Church	Laurel	\$2,031.62	424	County Line Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,384.94
279	Eastside Baptist Church	Pearl	\$2,028.85	425	Ludlow Baptist Church	Ludlow	\$1,379.50
280	Union Baptist Church	Mize	\$2,021.30	426	Ridgecrest Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,378.09
281	Wellman Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$2,006.73	427	Brush Creek Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,373.76
282	Beulah Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$2,004.23	428	New Prospect Baptist Church	Iuka	\$1,370.00
283	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,002.98	429	Cary Baptist Church	Cary	\$1,367.77
284	Macedonia Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,002.00	430	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,351.00
285	Navilla Baptist Church	McComb	\$2,000.84	431	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,350.00
286	Enterprise Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$1,999.92	432	Berwick Baptist Church	Gloster	\$1,345.00
287	Tusculum Baptist Church	Booneville	\$1,998.00	433	Diamondhead Baptist Church	Diamondhead	\$1,340.02
288	Arbor Grove Baptist Church	Houston	\$1,995.00	434	Mount Nelson Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,339.45
289	Hopewell Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,995.00	435	Heritage Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,337.68
290	Berea Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$1,993.05	436	Highland Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,336.29
291	Southway Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,986.11	437	Hohenlinden Baptist Church	Mantee	\$1,335.00
292	New Providence Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$1,978.00	438	Doty Springs Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$1,334.11
293	Star Baptist Church	Star	\$1,966.92	439	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,333.00
294	Union Baptist Church	Sardis	\$1,963.63	440	Providence Baptist Church	Ackerman	\$1,326.00
295	Williamsburg Baptist Church	Collins	\$1,953.69	441	Grace Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,326.00
296	Shuqualak Baptist Church	Shuqualak	\$1,951.00	442	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,324.79
297	Tocowa Baptist Church	Batesville	\$1,950.00	443	Calvary Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,315.00
298	Success Baptist Church	Saucier	\$1,928.19	444	Ethel Baptist Church	Ethel	\$1,310.56
299	Bethel Baptist Church	Etta	\$1,926.66	445	Pinola Baptist Church	Pinola	\$1,310.00
300	Central Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,925.00	446	Mantee Baptist Church	Mantee	\$1,306.00
301	Calvary Baptist Church	New Augusta	\$1,904.70	447	Gooden Lake Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$1,305.00
302	Calvary Baptist Church	Petal	\$1,900.65	448	Sherkey Isaquena Bapt Assoc	Rolling Fork	\$1,300.00
303	Mont Rose Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,890.00	449	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Woodland	\$1,300.00
304	Pittsboro Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,885.97	450	First Baptist Church	Steen	\$1,300.00
305	Arlington Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,881.74	451	Twin Lakes Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,300.00
306	First Baptist Church	Lumberton	\$1,863.39	452	Salem Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,300.00
307	Lookahama Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,850.21	453	Hebron Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,295.00
308	Mount Moreb Baptist Church	Collins	\$1,848.41	454	Blythe Creek Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$1,284.00
309	First Baptist Church	Brooklyn	\$1,844.73	455	First Baptist Church	Horn Lake	\$1,282.28
310	New Palestine Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,837.00	456	First Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,279.88
311	Scotland Baptist Church	Winona	\$1,831.64	457	Elon Baptist Church	Macon	\$1,278.00
312	Carriage Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,829.20	458	County Line Baptist Church	Ovett	\$1,275.00
313	Crystal Springs Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,825.00	459	Calvary West Point Baptist Church	West Point	\$1,275.00
314	West Heights Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,824.70	460	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Mt Pleasant	\$1,274.74
315	Holly Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,821.07	461	Conway Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,273.49
316	North Oxford Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,818.00	462	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$1,260.00
317	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Taylorville	\$1,815.00	463	Horseshoe Baptist Church	Tchula	\$1,260.00
318	Glenfield Baptist Church	New Albany	\$1,800.00	464	New Zion Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,254.35
319	Friendship Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,800.00	465	Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,252.49
320	Beulah Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$1,798.00	466	Enon Baptist Church	Jayess	\$1,250.00
321	Bethany Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$1,792.03	467	Hillcrest Baptist Church	New Albany	\$1,250.00
322	Calvary Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,787.44	468	Pheba Baptist Church	Pheba	\$1,250.00
323	Harmony Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,786.37	469	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,249.62
324	Zion Hill Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,785.38	470	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,245.00
325	Center Hill Baptist Church	Ecu	\$1,780.27	471	Oak Dale Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,240.00
326	Shiloh Baptist Church	Big Creek	\$1,774.61	472	Banner Baptist Church	Bruce	\$1,238.00
327	Fellowship Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$1,766.10	473	New Liberty Baptist Church	Glen	\$1,237.00
328	Sallis Baptist Church	Sallis	\$1,762.38	474	Salem Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,235.00
329	Easthaven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,750.00	475	Morgantown Baptist Church	Natchez	\$1,232.41
330	New Haven Baptist Church	Weir	\$1,748.73	476	Peoples Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,230.00
331	Standing Pine Baptist Church	Walnut Grove	\$1,746.56	477	Enterprise Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,225.00
332	Golden Central Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,745.00	478	Highland Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,217.62
333	New Hope Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$1,740.00	479	Lowery Creek Baptist Church	Seminary	\$1,215.00
334	First Baptist Church	Vardaman	\$1,730.00	480	Highland Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$1,212.74
335	Calvary Baptist Church	Holly Springs	\$1,730.00	481	Broadway Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,200.00
336	County Line Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,729.29	482	Union Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,200.00
337	Furra Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,719.46	483	Immanuel Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$1,200.00
338	Main Street Baptist Church	Goodman	\$1,714.44	484	Cumberland Baptist Church	Maben	\$1,200.00
339	Oloh First Baptist Church	Sumrall	\$1,712.60	485	Piney Grove Baptist Church	Randolph	\$1,200.00
340	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,712.16	486	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,200.00
341	Carterville Baptist Church	Petal	\$1,700.00	487	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	West	\$1,200.00
342	Oldtown Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,691.00	488	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Florence	\$1,200.00
343	First Baptist Church	Coffeeville	\$1,686.00	489	Colonial Heights Baptist Church	Ridgeland	\$1,200.00
344	Clifton Baptist Church	Forest	\$1,680.07	490	Friendship Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,200.00
345	First Baptist Church	Holly Springs	\$1,670.30	491	First Bellevue Baptist Church	Shelby	\$1,200.00
346	Meadow Grove Baptist Church	Brandon	\$1,662.00	492	Sunrise Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,200.00
347	Second Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$1,660.62	493	Corinth Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,200.00
348	Camp Creek Baptist Church	Guntown	\$1,651.92	494	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,200.00
349	Limestone Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,646.75	495	Good Hope Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,200.00
350	Bethany Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$1,639.00	496	First Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$1,200.00
351	Roundaway Baptist Church	Doddsville	\$1,635.00	497	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,200.00
352	Gatesville Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,624.22	498	Port Gibson Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$1,200.00
353	First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$1,620.00	499	Lebanon Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,200.00
354	Georgetown Baptist Church	Georgetown	\$1,613.99	500	Bethel Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,200.00
355	Bond Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,610.00	501	Calvary Baptist Church	Starkville	\$1,200.00
356	First Baptist Church	Taylorville	\$1,602.48	502	Oloh First Baptist Church	Sumrall	\$1,110.00
357	Central Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,600.59	503	Montrose Baptist Church	Louin	\$1,109.10
358	Providence Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$1,600.00	504	Trinity Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$1,103.00
359	Harrisburg Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,600.00	505	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,100.00
360	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Eupora	\$1,600.00	506	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,100.00
361	Smithville Baptist Church	Smithville	\$1,600.00	507	Bethany Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,100.00
362	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$1,593.14	508	Pine Hill Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$1,096.12
363	Union Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,590.04	509	Lucien Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,096.00
364	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Smithdale	\$1,588.00	510	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,091.08
365	Longview Baptist Church	Belden	\$1,588.00	511	First Baptist Church	Winona	\$1,091.05
366	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,582.71	512	First Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	\$1,085.00
367	Nicholson Baptist Church	Nicholson	\$1,578.48	513	Heritage Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,080.20
368	Corinth Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,577.00	514	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,078.26
369	South Crossroads Baptist Church	Iuka	\$1,575.00	515	Mount Nelson Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,071.50
370	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Batesville	\$1,567.83	516	Russell Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,070.52
371	Ecu Baptist Church	Ecu	\$1,563.09	517	Handsboro Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$1,058.00
372	Ellistown Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,560.00	518	First Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,056.88
373	First Baptist Church	State Line	\$1,549.84	519	Highland Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,056.63
374	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$1,547.00	520	Poplar Flat Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,055.00
375	Providence Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,541.81	521	Pearson Baptist Church	Pearl	\$1,049.96
376	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,536.70	522	First Baptist Church	Purvis	\$1,047.00
377	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$1,535.00	523	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Oakland	\$1,045.00
378	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Houlka	\$1,534.96	524	County Line Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,039.96
379	First Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,530.00	525	Parkway Baptist Church	Natchez	\$1,039.00
380	Union West Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,522.31	526	Southside Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,038.25
381	Macedonia Baptist Church	Byhalia	\$1,520.21	527	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,030.00
382	Union Baptist Church	Roxie	\$1,518.74	528	First Baptist Church	Taylorville	\$1,030.00
383	Antioch Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,515.00	529	First Baptist Church	Lexington	\$1,026.41
384	Pineview Baptist Church	Clinton	\$1,511.58	530	New Liberty Baptist Church	Morton	\$1,025.00
385	Chaparral Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$1,508.00	531	Good Hope Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,018.29
386	Parkway Baptist Church	Hernando	\$1,508.00	532	Border Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$1,015.00
387	Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,505.31	533	Melrose Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,010.30
388	First Baptist Church	Itta Bena	\$1,504.28	534	Banner Baptist Church	Bruce	\$1,008.00
389	First Baptist Church	Belmont	\$1,501.20	535	Rock Branch Baptist Church	Union	\$1,006.00
390	Trinity Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,500.00	536	Jones Chapel Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,000.00
391	West McComb Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,500.00	537	Campbell's Creek Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$1,000.00
392	Auburn Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,500.00	538	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	West	\$1,000.00
393	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,500.00	539	Evergreen Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,000.00
394	Good Hope Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,499.71	540	New Providence Baptist Church	Vardaman	\$1,000.00
395	Center Terrace Baptist Church	Canton	\$1,499.00	541	Enon Baptist Church	Jayess	\$1,000.00
396	Melrose Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,489.00	542	Improve Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,000.00
397	New Bethel Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,487.41	543	First Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$1,000.00
398	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Dumas	\$1,486.56	544	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,000.00
399	Maranatha Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,478.00				

Super Bowl champs reflect on Christianity under spotlight

PHOENIX (BP) — Wide receiver David Tyree said he has been with the Super Bowl champion New York Giants long enough that the Big Apple's media know better than to come to him for an interview unless they're prepared to hear first about his faith in Jesus Christ.

When the Giants' season floundered at 0-2 this year and an usually high number of players were injured or out for the season, Tyree penned a letter to every member of the team expressing his faith that God could still impact the Giants for good in many ways.

"I just said I know God wants to do something special for this team if we give Him the glory. Let's believe in Him to do something special and honor Him by staying strong for God," said Tyree, whose miraculous, one-hand catch of a pass from quarterback Eli Manning late in the fourth quarter is credited with saving the Giants' winning drive.

As expected from a large team with a multitude of beliefs, Tyree received a range of reactions from believers and non-believers, but he said sharing his heart for God through the letter allowed

him to witness to his teammates in the toughest of circumstances.

"This has been a year of grace for us and we need to show God's power in all we do," Tyree.

"It's a bigger issue to give God the glory," Tyree said, "and to believe in God's greatness than anything the Giants have done."

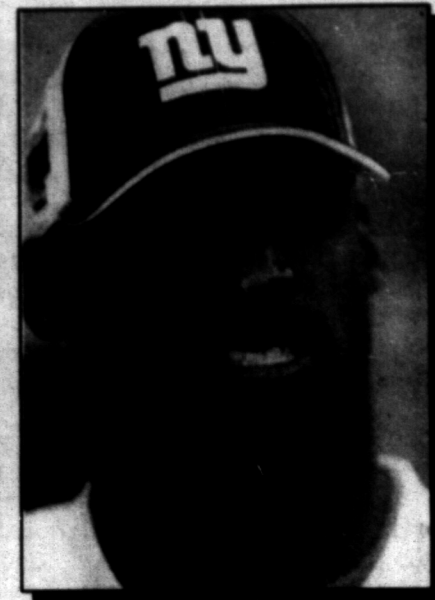
Linebacker Reggie Torbor wasn't surprised by Tyree's team-wide letter, only glad to see his good friend take a bold stand for his faith. "You know you're not by yourself on this team," Torbor said. "You can't do this job by yourself. You need the Lord and you need your Christian brothers. David is somebody who has been through the tough times and lived his faith and that's encouraging." Tyree, who was been a key offensive piece in the Giants' surprising run to the NFL title, said he was determined to appreciate the week in Phoenix before the Super bowl, because of the depths he has seen the Lord take him from in his life and his career. As Tyree disclosed in a Baptist Press feature last year, his life was headed to a dead end via alcohol and a drug possession arrest shortly

after he was drafted by the Giants out of Syracuse five years ago. "It is truly God's grace that has allowed me to be here for this game," Tyree said. "He used my trouble to allow me to find salvation in Him and to live a fulfilled life."

Tyree said he was mentored by former Giants quarterback and NFL spiritual leader Kurt Warner, along with his local pastor in New Jersey and his wife. "I am living God's faithfulness for what He has done in my life. Not everybody gets the New York Giants and why we are here, but I feel He has His hand on this team to show Himself strong," Tyree added. Torbor said he accepted Christ into his life while playing football at Auburn University and that has helped him with the often-unpredictable life of an NFL player. "There are a lot of problems in this



David Tyree



Reggie Torbor

world and this game and there is no way you can handle them all without Him," Torbor said. "I like to stay humble and give God all the glory. David is more upfront with his faith, but we both are seeking to honor Him." With the glare of more than 3,000 media members at the annual Super Bowl media session, each looking for a different story, piece of information or inside gossip, Torbor said he found his faith being tested daily. "It gets harder in the spotlight, not easier. You have to feed the spirit and stay in the Word," Torbor said. "I know I'm not alone and that makes all the difference to me."

Creation Museum tops goal in only a few months

PETERSBURG, Ky. (BP) — Eight months after it opened, the Creation Museum near Cincinnati still has its secular detractors but its success in attendance is erasing any doubts it can succeed.

Officials with the museum say they surpassed the one-year attendance goal in only seven months, drawing 290,000 visitors through the end of 2007. When the museum opened on Memorial Day with protesters outside, Creation Museum officials said their 12-month goal in attendance was 250,000. They passed the 300,000 mark Jan. 9.

Located in Petersburg, Ky., the high-tech, \$27 million, 60,000-square-foot museum and planetarium present a scientific view of the biblical creation account — in essence, a creationist answer to popular natural history museums. In fact, one of the goals of the museum, which is a product of the ministry Answers in Genesis, was to rival the artistic elements of natural history museums. The Creation Museum says the earth is thousands, not millions, of years old.

"It's something that has been desired for a long time," said Kurt Wise, who was a consultant for the museum and currently serves as professor of science and theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "A lot of Christians who are creationists want an alternative to the fabulous museums that we have — the Field Museum [in Chicago] and the Smithsonian and so on. They like taking their kids to those places, but they want to see

the creation model presented, and that's especially true for homeschool groups.

"It's filled a void that probably never had been filled." Media attention — even though it hasn't been all positive — has helped get the word out about the museum. Mark Looy, a vice president for Answers in Genesis, said 200 media outlets, including four Swiss ones, have either visited the museum or conducted telephone interviews.

The museum has grown since it opened and continues to do so:

- Some 600 parking spaces will be added in the coming months to accommodate the large crowds the museum has during the summer, particularly on weekends. Additionally, traffic flow will be improved.

- A 4,500-square-foot, two-story Dinosaur Den opened in the museum last summer, several weeks after the grand opening. It features sculpted dinosaurs and dinosaur bones and shows where creationists believe dinosaurs fit in the Genesis account.

- A fourth planetarium program will be added this year, bringing the total number of such programs to four. One of those programs is shown only around Christmas.

Additionally, the museum now is holding lectures by Answers in Genesis President Ken Ham and other staff. The lectures are held in part to draw more visitors on specific days of the week the museum has lower attendance.

The museum's success has focused more attention on the ministry's website (AnswersInGenesis.org) which offers answers to frequently asked questions and is one of the most visited religious websites in the U.S., Looy said. The ministry recently launched an online peer-reviewed research journal (AnswersInGenesis.org/arj).

The museum's success comes at the same time an unaffiliated Texas-based creationist research ministry, Institute for Creation Research, seeks to get approval for an online master's degree in science education. A Texas state advisory group gave the group preliminary approval, and now the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must give it the final OK. Some scientists are urging the board not to approve the degree.

"The latest round of so-called creation science truly scares me and all of my colleagues here at UT Southwestern Medical Center," Alfred Gilman, dean of UT Southwestern's medical school and a Nobel Prize winner in medicine, wrote to the board, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"Approval of this sort of nonsense as science in Texas will have a significant negative impact on our ability to attract the best minds to the state. How can Texas simultaneously launch a war on cancer and approve educational platforms that submit that the universe is 10,000 years old?"

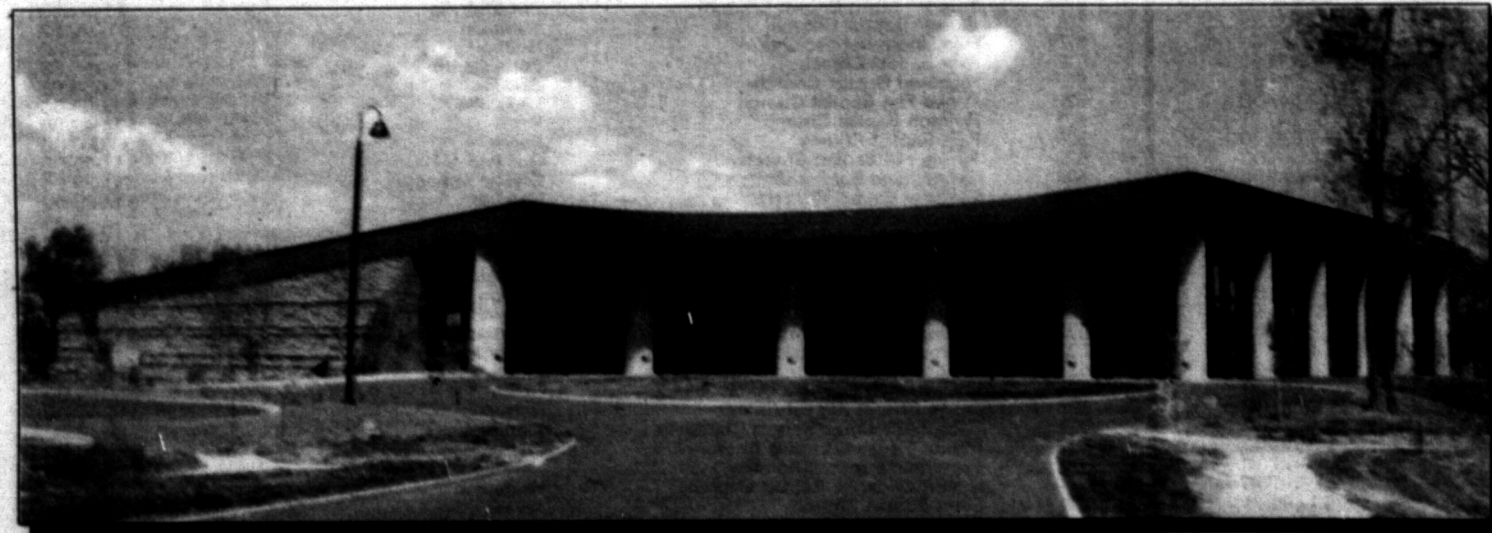
Wise said the museum has contributed a great deal to the young earth creationist movement.

"The museum is really a phenomenal step forward in young age creationism," Wise said. "... It moved creation science forward. It brings [creation science] up to date and even on the edge in some places."

The museum, Wise said, takes what he considers a new tactic in that it is less of an anti-evolution museum and more of a pro-creationism one.

"It changed an emphasis in creationism," he said. "Most young age creationism has been [seen as] attacking evolution and attacking the concept of millions of years, but this [museum] was explicitly a creation museum, so it's a presentation of the creation model and as much as possible a positive presentation."

The museum (online at CreationMuseum.org) does tackle some of the tougher objections to creationism, such as how the speed of light and the size of the universe fit in a young earth model.



Creation Museum